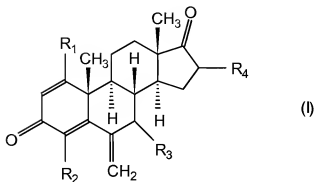


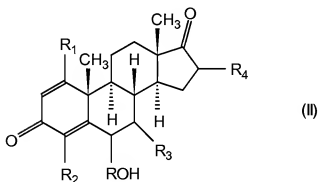
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)

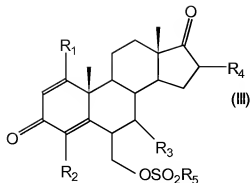


wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ are as defined above and R is alkylene, with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R₅SO₂X wherein R₅ is C₁-C₅ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ are as defined above; and
 reacting the compound of formula (III) with a base.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R is methylene.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is an amine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is a tertiary amine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R₅ is methyl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 R₅ is methyl and X is chlorine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen,
R is methylene,
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine,
R₅ is methyl, and
X is chlorine.

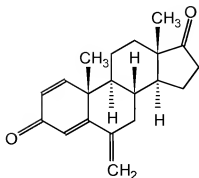
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is potassium hydroxide.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the compound of formula (III) is reacted with the base in a solvent.

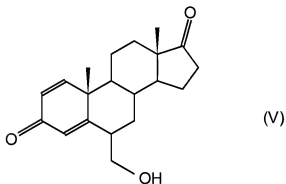
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the solvent is an alkanol.

14. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula

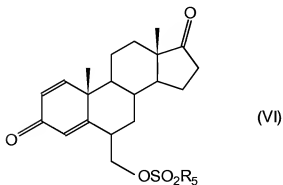


the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V)



with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R_5SO_2X wherein R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (VI)



and then reacting the compound of formula (VI) with a base in a solvent.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:
R₅ is methyl and X is chlorine.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, and
the solvent is an alkanol.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)